

## **Impetus for Regional Cooperation Began in the 1960's**

Much of the impetus for regional cooperation among local governments began in the 1960s. During this time local governments throughout the country began experiencing serious environmental and social problems. There was increasing urbanization and rapid growth in many cities and metropolitan areas. Also, improved transportation was making community boundaries less important.

These factors helped contribute to the realization that many programs faced by a community extended beyond traditional boundaries.

Also during the 1960s, many new governmental programs were created that often led to considerable duplication of effort, fragmentation of services and widespread confusion about federal funding procedures. In an effort to help meet the demand for services and yet restrict the growth of more government agencies, the federal government initiated efforts to develop coordinated and cooperative planning.

Requirements were added to many federal programs that attempted to discourage and reduce duplicative and overlapping planning.

The history of multi-county cooperation in Utah began in 1966 when Governor Calvin Rampton began meeting with local officials to discuss establishing multi-county planning districts. During that same year the state Legislature passed the Interlocal Cooperation Act allowing local governments to work together to administer programs of mutual benefit to all of them.

It was 1970 when Governor Rampton issued an executive order establishing eight multi-county districts in the state. In 1973 the number was reduced to the seven that still exist.

